

High school trades workers compete at Westview Secondary by Ronan O'Doherty February 22, 2020



Brayden Hollywood and Emily Hamilton from Samuel Robertson Technical share a mid-competition laugh in the Skills Canada cabinet making contest at Westview Secondary. (Photo Ronan O'Doherty—THE NEWS)

A selection of the handiest local students took part in the Skills Canada BC regional competition at Westview Secondary Friday.

Contestants competed in one of two disciplines: auto service or cabinet making.

Greg Erho, instructor for BCIT School of Transportation at Westview was overseeing the six students taking part in the auto competition.

“It’s a ton of work but it’s nice to see the students enjoy it,” he said.



Kennedie Shannon tinkers with a Honda engine in the auto portion of the contest. (Photo Ronan O'Doherty—THE NEWS)

“It challenges them, and all the stuff they’ve been learning since September they’re putting into practice.”

Stations for electrical tests, brake inspection, compressing testing, and valve adjustment were set up in the school’s auto department. The competitors – who were being timed – had inspectors on hand to ensure they were following correct protocol.

“They’re forced to read the information, interpret it and then put [their knowledge] into action,” said Erho.



Westview Secondary's Caleb Woodruffe looks under a Honda Civic hood to diagnose a problem while an inspector looks on. (Photo Ronan O'Doherty—THE NEWS)

Two rooms over, Andy Strothotte, a wood working teacher at Westview, kept an eye on the six competitors in the cabinet making contest.

Tasked with assembling a tool caddy with a sliding drawer in the base, the students – who were from Westview, Samuel Robertson Technical and Port Moody Secondary – had to follow the schematics carefully.

“Judging will be on the project overall,” Strothotte said.

“How complete it is, the level of quality to their finish, if it matches what the drawing says.



Westview Secondary's Luke Palmer is all about precision as he uses calipers to figure out a brake issue in the auto competition,. (Photo Ronan O'Doherty—THE NEWS)

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“Anyone who made a mistake and needs another piece of material will be deducted marks and same goes for any safety infractions we see around.”

Emily Hamilton, a student from Samuel Robertson Technical, took a quick break from her project to chat.

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“It actually makes you think about what you’re doing more. You have to think for yourself instead of double guessing and asking your teacher.

You definitely find out what you’re capable of.”

Port Moody Secondary’s Jeffery Jie takes a close look at the tool caddy he is tasked with constructing. (Photo Roman O’Doherty—THE NEWS)